

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3957

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 6182

E. O.: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, KS, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE VIEW OF YUN AFFAIR

REF: (A) STATE 71771 (B) SEOUL 2318 (C) SEOUL 2835

1. DURING MEETING WITH FONOFF NORTHEAST ASIA DEP DIV HEAD ENDO TO GET REPORT ON RECENT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING KOREA IN WASHINGTON, EMBOFF LEARNED THAT CONTRARY TO HIS EXPECTATION, THOSE DISCUSSIONS DID NOT DEVOTE MUCH TIME TO IMPLICATIONS OF YUN AFFAIR. THEREFORE, EMBASSY IS NOW RESPONDING TO QUERIES POSED IN REF A.

2. ENDO SAID FONOFF BELIEVES YUN AFFAIR REFLECTED CONTINUING RIVALRY BETWEEN ARMY AND CIA. KIM CHONG PIL APPARENTLY REMAINED ALOOF FROM EPISODE AND YI HU RAK HAS CLEARLY SURVIVED. PARK HAS APPARENTLY SOLVED CURRENT PROBLEM PT ARMY - CIA RIVALRY WILL CONTINUE. FONOFF BELIEVES PARK CONTROLS SENIOR ARMY OFFICERS BUT NOT NECESSARILY COLONELS AND BELOW. YOUNGER OFFICERS, HAVING BEEN EDUCATED ALONG DEMOCRATIC LINES, MUST NECESSARILY BE SOMEWHAT UNHAPPY WITH DICTATORIAL REGIME INSTITUTED BY PARK. IN OFFERING THESE COMMENTS, ENDO SAID THAT HE FUNDAMENTALLY AGREES WITH ASSESSMENT OF EMBASSY SEOUL (REFS B AND C SUBSTANCE OF WHICH EMBOFF SHARED WITH ENDO).

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3. ENDO SPECULATES THAT PARK ARRESTED YUN BECAUSE HE HAD TOO MUCH TAKEN FOR GRANTED PARK' S CONFIDENCE. ENDO BELIEVES PARK WILL NOT PERMIT SUBORDINATES TO ABUSE POWERS DELEGATED TO THEM OR UTILIZE POWER BEYOND ACCEPTABLE LIMITS, SINCE ABUSE COULD ONLY SPELL DANGER FOR PARK IN LONG RUN.

4. WITH RESPECT TO EFFECTS OF YUN CASE ON ATTITUDES OF MILITARY OFFICERS TOWARD PARK, ENDO CONCLUDES THAT SOME UNEASINESS MUST EXIST, FLOWING FROM FEAR THAT PARK WILL METE OUT SAME TREATMENT TO ANY OFFICERS WHO OVERSTEP LINE OF TOLERABLE AUTHORITY. PROBLEM IS THAT NO ONE KNOWS PRECISELY WHERE THAT LINE LIES.

5. ENDO AGREES THAT OVERALL STABILITY OF ROK HAS NOT BEEN FUNDAMENTALLY AFFECTED. HOWEVER, IF SUCH EPISODES RECUR, STABILITY COULD NOT HELP BUT BE THREATENED. ENDO' S BOSS, NAKAHIRA, TENDS TO SEE YUN AFFAIR AS POSSIBLE BEGINNING OF INSTABILITY WHICH WILL INCREASE IN FUTURE. ENDO, ON OTHER HAND, WOULD NOT FOR TIME BEING GO BEYOND STATEMENT THAT YUN AFFAIR IS SYMPTOMATIC AND ILLUSTRATIVE OF FACT THAT DEEP DOWN THINGS ARE NOT AS CALM AS THEY APPEAR ON SURFACE.
INGERSOLL

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